



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**May 31, 2007**

**For immediate release**

- 1. Water quality, landfill rules and contracts on June 5 EPC agenda**
- 2. Bypass in Fairfield**

## **WATER QUALITY, LANDFILL RULES AND CONTRACTS ON JUNE 5 EPC AGENDA**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Karen Grimes at (515) 281-5135.**

MUSCATINE – The DNR will present an update on current efforts to designate Iowa streams for aquatic life and recreational uses at the June 5 meeting of the Environmental Protection Commission in Muscatine.

The DNR has been assessing streams to determine the highest attainable aquatic life and recreational uses. These uses will help determine the appropriate level of protection for a specific stream or river.

In other action, commissioners will be asked to replace the existing rules for design and operation of municipal solid waste landfills with rules that will reflect the federal requirements. The changes will require all municipal solid waste landfills to install a liner and a collection system for liquids passing through the landfill by Oct. 1. These standards are designed to protect the ground water.

Commissioners will also be asked to approve contracts for ongoing environmental services such as air and water quality monitoring, administration of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, manure applicator certification, and environmental assistance to small businesses.

The commission will meet at 9 a.m., June 5, in the Riverview Center, 110 Harbor Drive in Muscatine. Public participation is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. There is an appointment at 10:15 a.m. with Richard Kelley, University Hygienic Laboratory. Another appointment with MidAmerican Energy Company is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

The meeting is open to the public.

The meeting will be preceded by presentation of the DNR Pollution Prevention Program and a tour of Monsanto, 2500 Wiggins Rd., Muscatine at 2:30 p.m. June 4.

Commissioners will also have dinner at the Button Factory Woodfire Grille, 215 W. Mississippi Dr., at 6 p.m., followed by a tour of the Muscatine Industry/Pearl Button Museum, 117 W Second St. at 8 p.m. on June 4.

The complete agenda is as follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks
- Contract - Polk County Board of Supervisors - Air Quality Program
- Contract - Linn County Board of Health - Air Quality Program
- Contract - Iowa Department of Economic Development - Small Business Environmental Assistance Liaison
- Contract - University of Northern Iowa's (UNI) Iowa Waste Reduction Center - Small Business Assistance Program
- Contracts - Eastern Iowa Regional Utility Service Systems, Regional Utility Service Systems, ADLM Facilities Management Systems, Wastewater Management Services of Central Iowa, Rural Utility Solutions
- Contract - Iowa State University Extension Service - Manure Applicator Certification Training
- Contract - Iowa State University for Nonwadeable Stream Assessment Development
- Contract - Iowa State University - Intensive Lake Monitoring
- SFY 2008 DNR/UHL Air Quality Bureau Support Contract
- Environmental Monitoring and Laboratory Services - University of Iowa Hygienic Lab
- Contract - University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL) for impaired waters monitoring and assessment
- Contract - University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory for Staff Support
- Referrals to the Attorney General
- Joint State Agency Agreement Between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Finance Authority, and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship- Division of Soil Conservation
- Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund - 2008 Intended Use Plans
- Final Rule - Rescind 567-Chapter 113 "Sanitary Landfills: Municipal Solid Waste" and adopt the following new chapter in lieu thereof as 567-Chapter 113 "Sanitary

Landfills for Municipal Solid Waste: Groundwater Protection Systems for the Disposal of Non-Hazardous Wastes"

- Final Rule - Chapter 64 - Wastewater Construction and Operation Permits
- Amendments to Chapter 135 - Technical Standards and Corrective Action Requirements for Owners and Operators of Underground Storage Tanks
- Use Assessment and Use Attainability Analyses (UA/UAA) Presentation
- Solid Waste Alternatives Program - Recommendations
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov).

The members of the commission are Darrell Hanson, Chair, Manchester; Mary Gail Scott, Vice-Chair, Cedar Rapids; Suzanne Morrow, Secretary, Storm Lake; David Petty, Eldora; Henry Marquard, Muscatine; Charlotte Hubbell of Des Moines; Susan Heathcote, Des Moines; and Ralph Klemme, LeMars. The director of the DNR is Rich Leopold.

*Writer: Karen Grimes*

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## **BYPASS IN FAIRFIELD**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Jim Sievers at (319) 653-2135.**

DES MOINES – The City of Fairfield discharged an estimated 240,000 gallons of untreated wastewater to Crow Creek and a tributary of Big Cedar Creek.

The release began Wednesday night at 11:20 and ended at 6 a.m. Thursday after heavy rainfalls in Jefferson County.

City crews have collected water samples and will be monitoring the situation. The city also has work underway to correct problems with sanitary sewer overflows.

Heavy rain can overload wastewater collection systems, which are the underground pipes that carry sewage to a treatment plant. When sewer pipes are overwhelmed, the excess rainwater and sewage have nowhere to go. Cities bypass to lower the wastewater level in the collection system and prevent backups into basements through floor drains. Although discharging wastewater to a stream is not desirable, it does prevent a greater and more immediate health risk in people's homes.

Collection systems are most likely to be overwhelmed when heavy rainfalls or excess snow melts, saturates the ground and enters a sanitary sewer system through cracks in the underground sewer pipes.

Storm water can also enter piping through improper connections, such as roof drains or sump pumps that are hooked up to the sanitary sewer system instead of the storm water system. If the storm water entered the storm sewer system, it would flow directly into a nearby stream or lake. When it enters the sanitary sewer system it flows to a wastewater treatment system. When heavy rains or snowmelt occurs, the volume of storm water entering the sanitary sewer system can be more than the wastewater treatment system can treat.

According to DNR design standards for construction of new wastewater treatment systems, facilities should be able to handle the amount of water in the collection system from all three of these events happening at the same time:

- Peak sewage flows from homes, businesses and industry
- Peak groundwater levels
- A storm that drops two inches of water in an hour.

While many collection systems in Iowa already have or are in the process of upgrading their collection systems to handle these events, many more need to upgrade.

The DNR tracks bypass reports submitted by facilities and follows up with the facility to determine problems and help them upgrade their systems, although it can be a long-term process. The DNR has also formed a committee to discuss how it handles wet weather bypasses.